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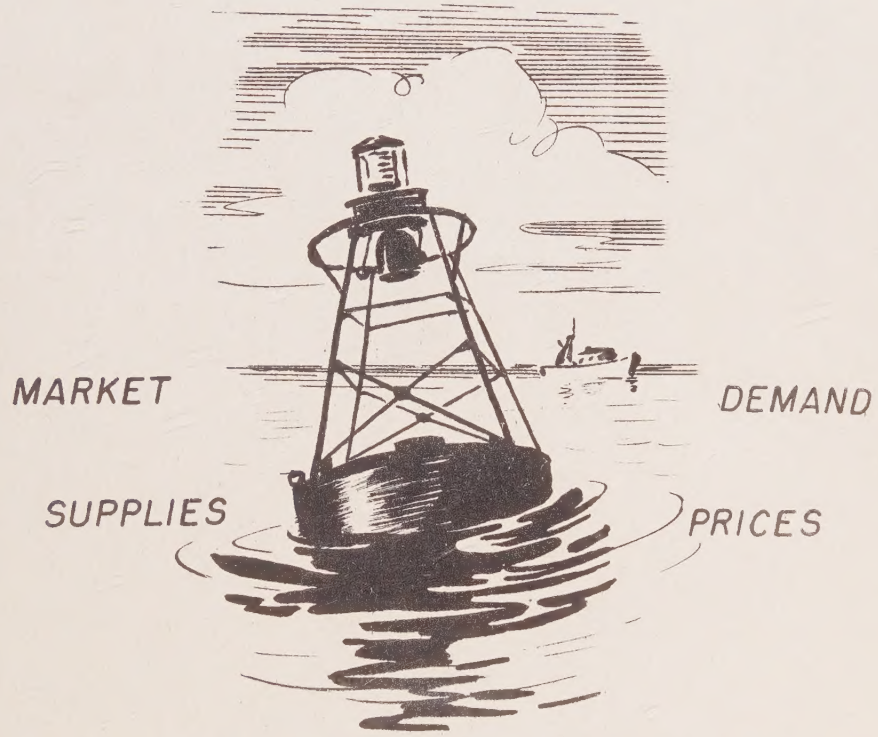
COMMERCIAL FISHERIES OUTLOOK



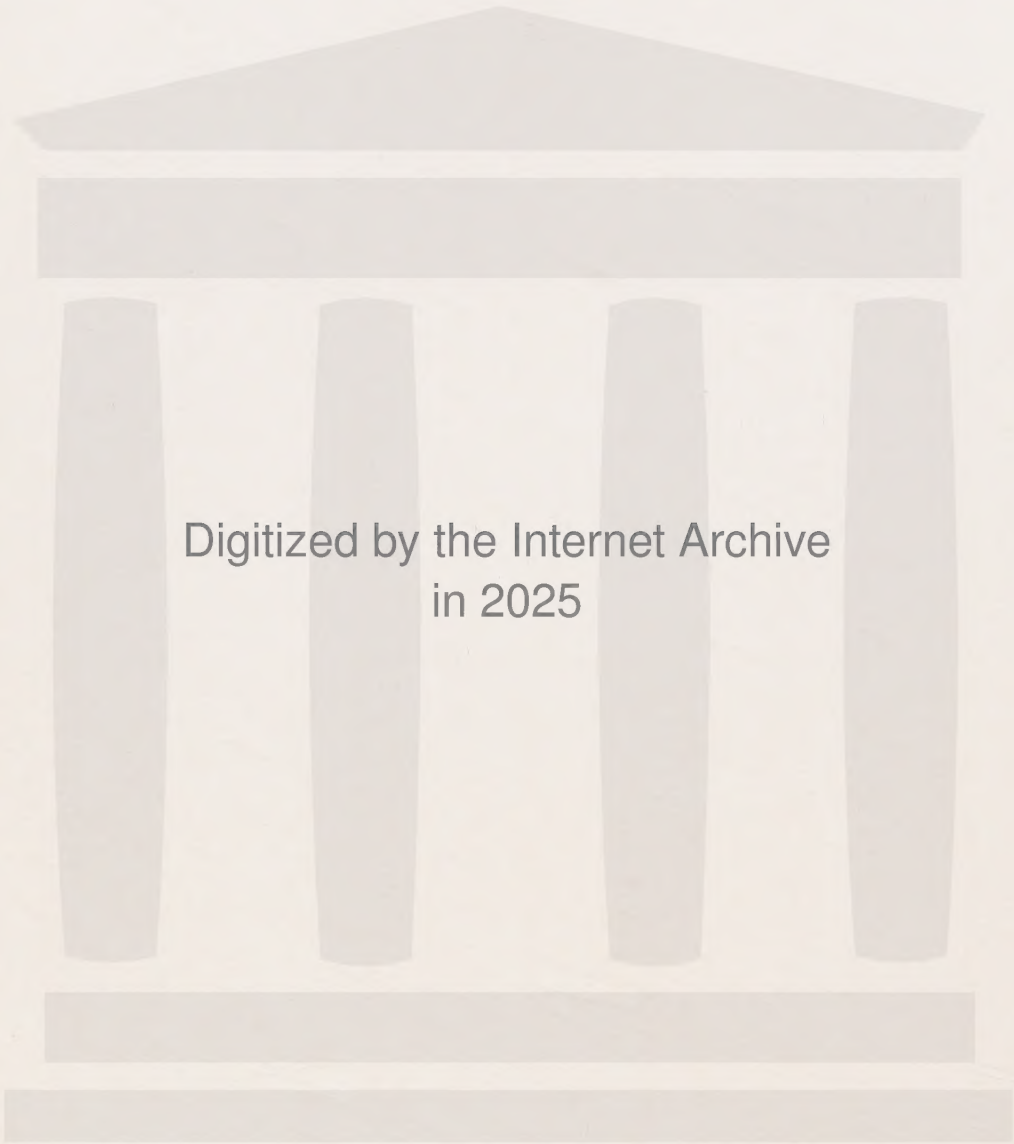
January - March 1960

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Department of the Interior

Washington, D.C.

Fishery Leaflet 336 qq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United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior

Fishery Leaflet 336 qq

Washington 25, D. C. January 1960

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Prepared in the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES OUTLOOK

January - March 1960

THE OUTLOOK AT A GLANCE

BUSINESS ACTIVITY	The new decade begins with prospects for the national economy to show steady gains in 1960.
FOOD	Generally heavy supplies of farm products; red meat production probably will set new high.
FISHERY PRODUCTION	Low during first quarter.
PRICES	Steady to firm for most species.
IMPORTS	High for groundfish blocks, shrimp, and tuna.
EXPORTS	Improvement for fish oils and canned and frozen salmon.
DEMAND	Good for most species with increased activity during Lent.

GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

Industrial production and employment began to recover in November after the steel mills resumed operations, although shortages of steel curtailed output in some lines and reduced deliveries of autos to consumers. Incomes advanced and retail sales excluding autos reached a new high.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION - In November, the industrial production index was 148 percent of the 1947-49 average, compared with an index of 147 in October. Output of minerals rose sharply as activity was resumed at coal and iron mines which were inactivated by the steel strike. Steel mill operations rose from 14 percent of capacity in October to 60 percent in November, and 96 percent in mid-December. Auto assemblies were sharply reduced, however, until expanded supplies of steel in mid-December permitted scheduling of assemblies at a rapidly rising rate.

EMPLOYMENT - Seasonally adjusted employment in nonfarm establishments increased by 125,000 to 52.1 million in mid-November. The return of 400,000 workers to their jobs in the steel and coal mining industries was largely offset by sizable layoffs in the auto industry, and smaller cutbacks in other metal fabricating plants caused by steel shortages. Unemployment rose to 3.7 million.

COMMODITY PRICES - The wholesale commodity price level remained stable from mid-November to mid-December, reflecting little change in both industrial and agricultural components. Prices of copper rose as did textile prices. Prices of rubber and steel scrap declined following earlier sharp increases. Prices of most other industrial materials and finished products were stable.

DISTRIBUTION - Seasonally adjusted retail sales edged down in November from the record rate in October but were 7 percent above a year ago. Sales at department stores and most other retail outlets rose somewhat, but supply shortages reduced auto deliveries substantially. At the end of November, stocks of new domestic autos were the lowest for this date since 1954.

BANK CREDIT AND RESERVES - Total commercial bank credit declined in November as reductions in holdings of U. S. Government and other securities were offset only in part by continued loan growth. At the end of November, the money supply was about 1 percent larger than a year ago.

THE FOOD SITUATION

THE FOOD OUTLOOK

Supplies of farm products will remain heavy in 1960 with some further accumulation of already excessive stocks of wheat and feed grains. Heavy supplies will be partly offset by expected increases in exports and rising economic activity.

MEATS

Livestock production and slaughter should show a gain in 1960 over 1959. There will be some increase in cattle slaughter over the low 1959 rate. Cattle prices expected to decline. Hog production probably will be down only slightly next spring. This would mean hog prices, in the fall and winter of 1960, as high or higher than those in comparable periods in 1959. Total red meat production will probably set a new high, slightly more than the 28.1 billion pounds produced in 1956. Total meat consumption expected to reach 161 pounds per person (wholesale dressed basis), about 2 1/2 pounds more than in 1959.

POULTRY AND EGGS

Supplies of eggs and poultry meat in 1960 are not likely to change much from 1959. Per capita chicken consumption in 1960 is expected to average the record set in 1959 at 29.8 pounds (ready-to-cook basis). Production of broilers and fryers during the early part of 1960 will drop somewhat from 1959 levels. The 82 million turkeys raised in 1959 set a production record, and continuing firm prices could induce a repetition of this production in 1960. In the first quarter of 1960, egg supplies will dip below those for the comparable 1959 period.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

During 1960, supplies of dairy products are expected to continue at the high levels prevailing since 1956. The decrease in milk production in the past two years might be halted or even reversed this year. Milk production per cow is expected to reach another record high in 1960.

VEGETABLES

Processed vegetables are in heavy supply again this season. Supplies of canned vegetables available for distribution into mid-1960 are about as large, and those of frozen vegetables a little larger than a year ago. Supplies of canned green peas are lower than those a year ago, but there is substantially more sweet corn and moderately more snap beans. Among the frozen vegetables, supplies of asparagus, lima beans, and sweet corn are below those of a year earlier, but holdings of green peas and snap beans are moderately larger. Holdings of frozen spinach are much larger than at this time last season.

GENERAL FISHERY SITUATION

UNITED STATES LANDINGS of fish and shellfish during 1959 amounted to about 5.1 billion pounds. This represents the second largest catch in this country; the record was set in 1956 with a production of almost 5.3 billion pounds. However, the value of the 1959 catch will fall considerably below the record $370 million received by fisherman for the 1958 production.

COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS of edible fishery products on December 1, 1959 totaled 234.5 million pounds, an increase of 25.7 million pounds over those a year earlier. Shrimp holdings amounted to 48 million pounds which were 8 million pounds higher than the holdings on December 1, 1958. Other fishery products in greater supply than last year were blocks, fillets of cod and haddock, fish sticks and portions, halibut, and scallops. There were lower holdings of crabs, fresh-water fish, oysters, spiny lobsters, salmon, and whiting.

MENHADEN CATCH of about 2.2 billion pounds in 1959 was the largest in history. Menhaden accounted for 43 percent of the total 1959 fish and shellfish catch.

PACK OF CALIFORNIA SARDINES during 1959 amounted to 755,000 standard cases - about one-third the amount canned in the year previous.

IMPORTS OF FISHERY PRODUCTS DURING 1959 accounted for approximately 37 percent of the total available supply of these products in the United States. About 1.75 billion pounds of edible and 1.3 billion pounds of non-edible fishery products were imported.

PACK OF CANNED FISHERY PRODUCTS for human consumption in 1959 was about 20 percent less than in 1958 according to preliminary figures.

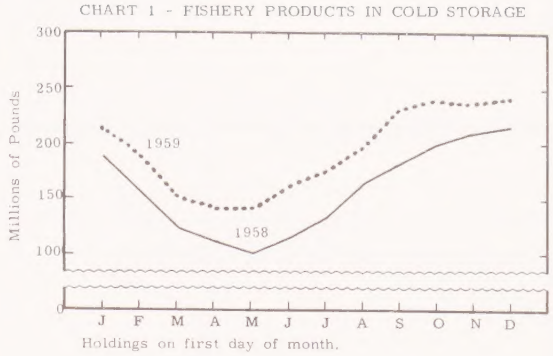
THE SHRIMP FLEET, which is the largest of any of our fishing fleets, totaled 7,323 craft in 1958 (the latest year for which data are available). The fleet was composed of 3,427 boats of less than five net tons, and 3,896 vessels of five net tons and over.

Fishery Products in Cold-Storage

December 1

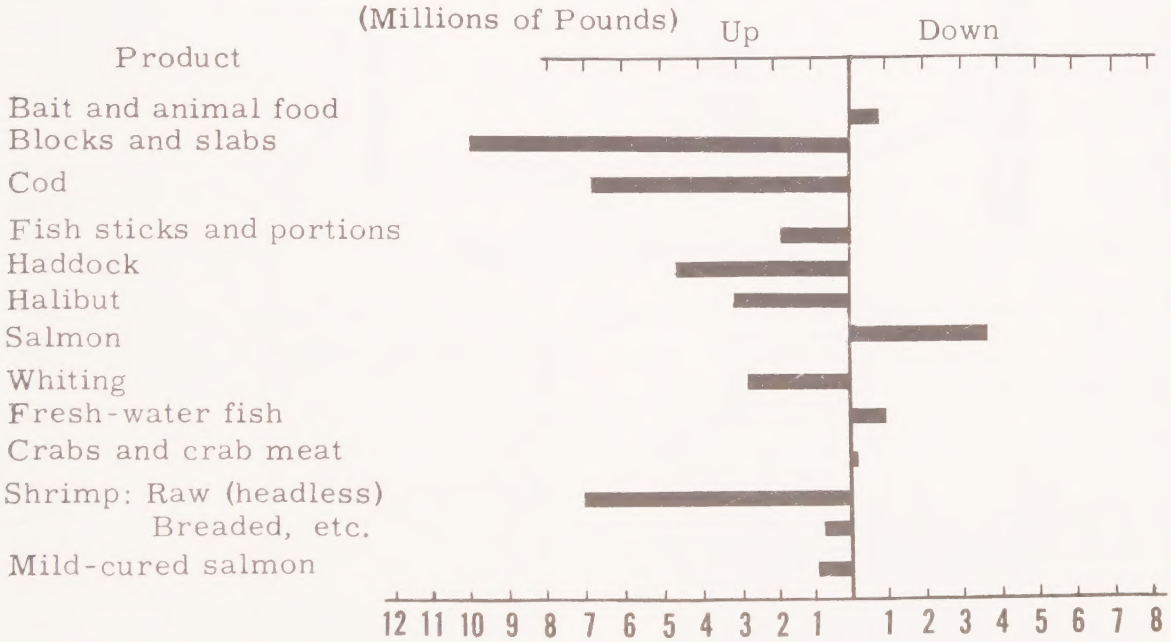
1959.....242,575,000 Lbs.

1958.....217,556,000 Lbs.



Total cold-storage holdings of fish and shellfish on December 1, 1959 were almost 12 percent higher than those of a year ago. Bait and animal food comprised slightly more than 3 percent of these holdings in 1959 and 4 percent in 1958. The accompanying chart indicates inventory changes for certain species.

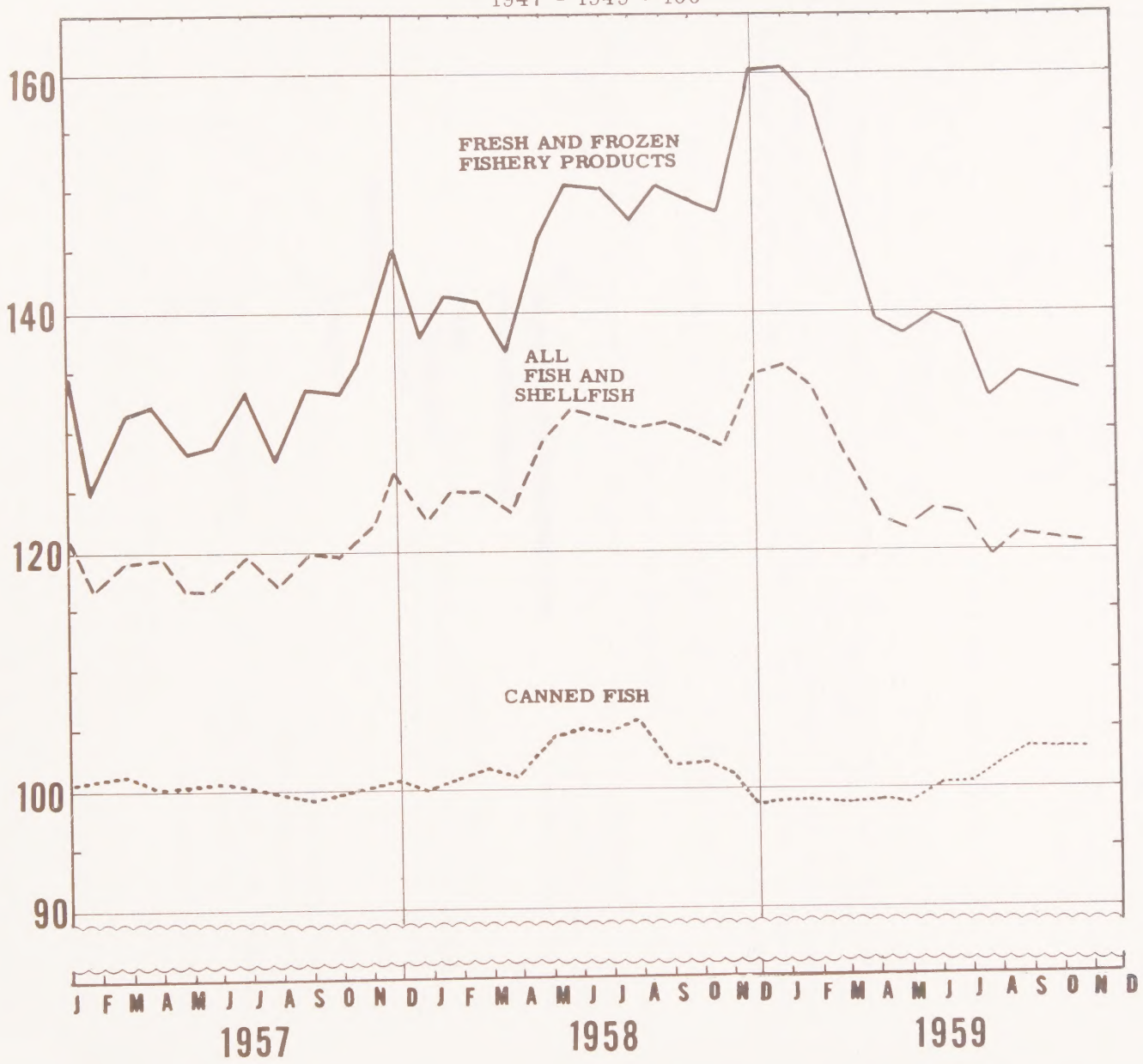
December 1, 1959 Compared With December 1, 1958



The wholesale price index for all fish and shellfish during November, 1959 was 120.7, a decrease of 7.9 points from that a year earlier. Fresh and frozen fishery products had an index decrease of 14.5 points, but the index for canned fish was up 2.3 points (Chart 2).

CHART 2 - INDEXES OF WHOLESALE FISH PRICES

1947 - 1949 = 100


160
140
120
100
90
FRESH AND FROZEN FISHERY PRODUCTS
ALL FISH AND SHELLFISH
CANNED FISH
J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D
1957
1958
1959

SPECIFIC MARKETING SITUATIONS

Salt-water Fish

ANCHOVIES, CANNED

Market - Firm Supplies - Light Demand - Good

Landings continue very light, and during the first eleven months of 1959, 1,329 tons were taken compared with 3,681 tons caught in the same period a year earlier.

Pack - Preliminary figures indicate that the 1959 pack of anchovies was only 3,000 standard cases compared with almost 54,000 cases packed in 1958.

Prices are high and should remain firm during the first quarter.

FISH STICKS AND PORTIONS

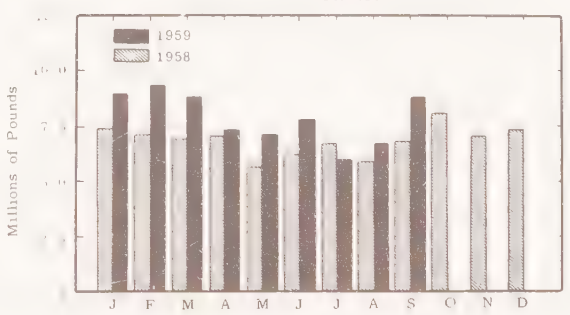
Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Production, January - September

1959. . . . . 71,093,000 Lbs.

1958. . . . . 60,159,000 Lbs.

CHART 3 - PRODUCTION OF FISH STICKS AND PORTIONS



Production of fish sticks and portions during the first nine months of 1959 was about 18 percent greater than that during the same period in 1958 (Chart 3). Portions accounted for 26.1 million pounds of the nine month production in 1959 and represented an increase of 72 percent compared with the portion production during the same period in 1958. The fish stick production in January - September, 1959 increased less than 1 percent compared with last year.

FISH STICKS AND PORTIONS (Cont.)

Cold-Storage Holdings

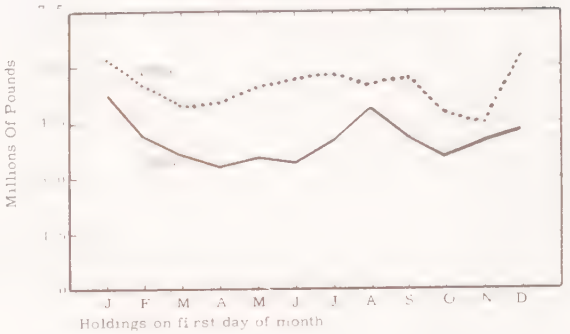
Fish Sticks and Portions

December 1

1959. . . . . 6,285,000 Lbs.

1958. . . . . 4,345,000 Lbs.

CHART 4 - FISH STICKS AND PORTIONS IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-Storage Holdings

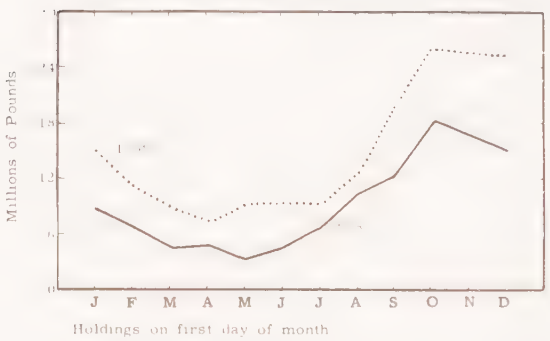
Blocks and Slabs

December 1

1959. . . . . 25,268,000 Lbs.

1958. . . . . 15,349,000 Lbs.

CHART 5 - BLOCKS AND SLABS IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of fish sticks and portions on December 1, were 45 percent higher than those on December 1, 1958 (Chart 4). Blocks and slabs in cold-storage were 65 percent greater than the low holdings of a year ago (Chart 5).

Prices of fish sticks and portions are expected to be steady.

FLOUNDER AND SOLE

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

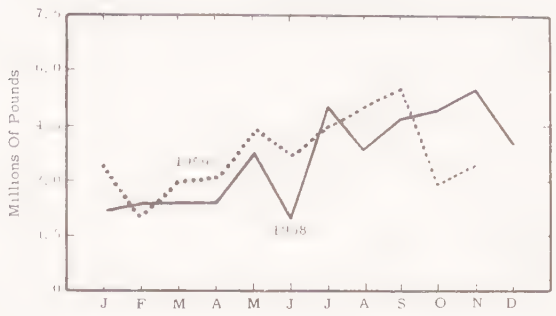
Massachusetts Landings

January - November

1959..... 42,160,000 Lbs.

1958..... 44,692,000 Lbs.

CHART 6 - LANDINGS OF FLOUNDER AND SOLE, MASSACHUSETTS



Landings of flounder and sole in Massachusetts during the first eleven months of 1959 were almost 6 percent lower than those in the corresponding period a year earlier (Chart 6). Seasonally low production is expected in the first quarter.

Cold-Storage Holdings

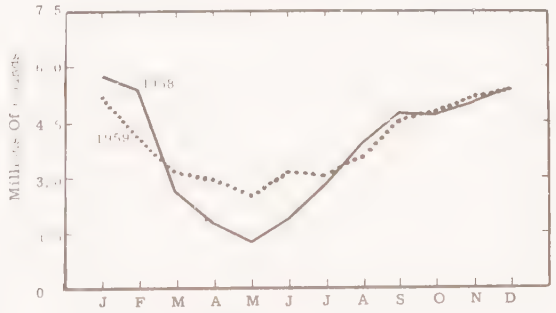
December 1

(Fillets)

1959..... 5,349,000 Lbs.

1958..... 5,518,000 Lbs.

CHART 7 - FLOUNDER AND SOLE FILLETS IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of flounder and sole fillets on December 1 were about 3 percent lower than those on the same date in 1958 (Chart 7). Stocks should seasonally decline during the first quarter.

FLOUNDER AND SOLE (Cont.)

Imports, January - October

(Fillets)

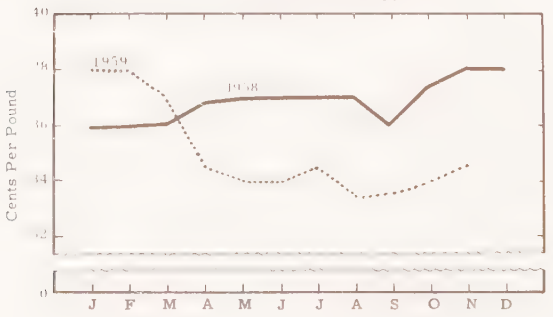
1959.....12,014,000 Lbs.

1958.....12,380,000 Lbs.

Imports of flounder and sole during the first ten months of 1959 were about 3 percent lower than those during the similar period a year earlier. Canada is the principal supplier of this product to the United States.

Prices, which have begun to increase slightly should not reach the high level of the first quarter last year (Chart 8).

CHART 8 - WHOLESALE PRICES OF YELLOWTAIL FLOUNDER FILLETS



Average price, 5 lb. carton, skinless, at Boston.

GROUNDFISH FILLETS, INCLUDING OCEAN PERCH

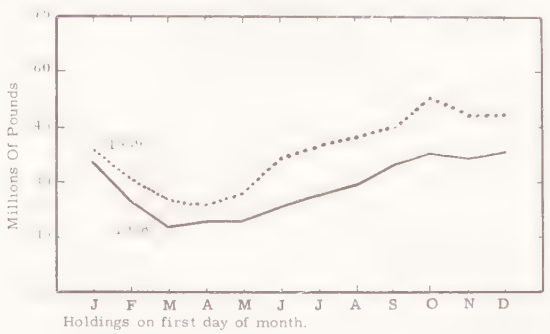
Cold-Storage Holdings

December 1

1959..... 48,703,000 Lbs.

1958..... 37,884,000 Lbs.

CHART 9 - GROUNDFISH FILLETS IN COLD STORAGE
(EXCLUDING BLOCKS)



Holdings on first day of month.

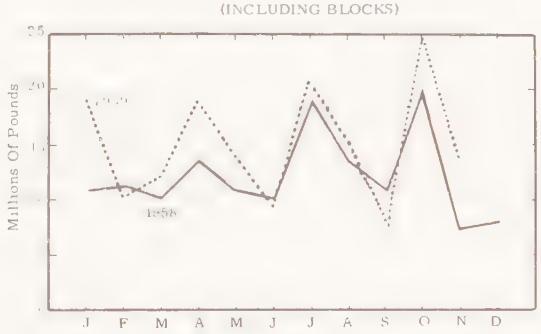
On December 1, the cold-storage holdings of groundfish fillets, excluding blocks and slabs, were 29 percent higher than those on the same date in 1958 (Chart 9). A gradual decline in holdings is expected during the latter part of the first quarter.

Imports, January - November

1959..... 168,500,000 Lbs.

1958..... 156,900,000 Lbs.

CHART 10 IMPORTS OF GROUNDFISH FILLETS
(INCLUDING BLOCKS)



Imports of groundfish fillets, including blocks, through November, 1959 were about 7 percent higher than those during the eleven month period in 1958 (Chart 10). It is expected that there will be a sharp increase in the imports of fillet blocks since the recent ruling, effective September 15, which held that blocks imported in bulk (15 pounds and over) are dutiable a one cent per pound rather than 1-7/8 cents per pound.

COD FILLETS

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal Demand - Good

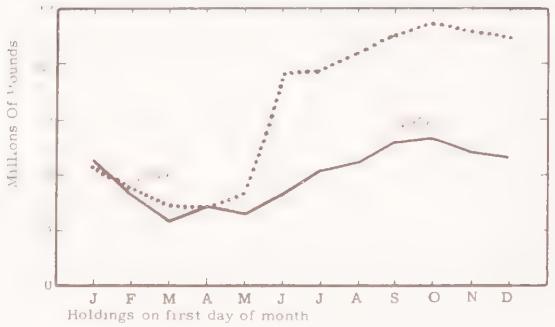
Cold-Storage Holdings

December 1

1959..... 13,381,000 Lbs.

1958..... 6,630,000 Lbs.

CHART II - COD FILLETS IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of cod fillets on December 1 were double those on the same date in 1958 (Chart 11). Large reductions in inventories are expected during the first quarter.

Landings should continue light during the next three months.

Imports, January - October

1959.....49,872,000 Lbs.

1958.....42,718,000 Lbs.

Imports of cod fillets during the first ten months of 1959 were 17 percent higher than those through October, 1958. Canada has supplied slightly more than 50 percent of the cod fillets imported in 1959.

HADDOCK FILLETS

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Cold-Storage Holdings

December 1

1959. . . . . 10,456,000 Lbs.

1958. . . . . 5,720,000 Lbs.

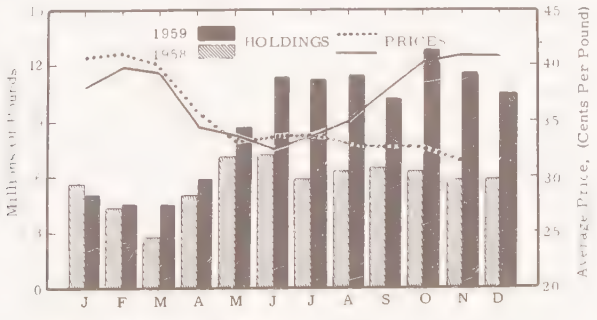
Cold-storage holdings of haddock fillets on December 1 were 83 percent higher than the lower-than-normal holdings a year earlier (Chart 12).

Landings of haddock have been very low and are expected to continue so into the first quarter.

Imports of haddock fillets during the first ten months of 1959 amounted to almost 24 million pounds compared with 21.3 million pounds in the corresponding period a year earlier.

Prices have dropped considerably from the highs existing at the beginning of 1959, and are much lower than those at this period last year (Chart 12). They should strengthen slightly during the first quarter.

CHART 12 - COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF HADDOCK FILLETS



Holdings - First day of Month
Prices - 1-lb. small skins on, at Boston

OCEAN PERCH FILLETS

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Cold-Storage Holdings

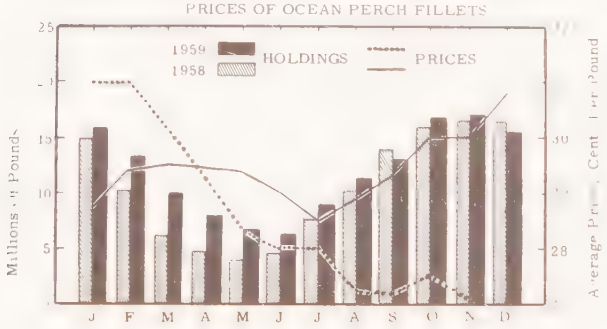
December 1

1959. . . . . 15,453,000 Lbs.

1958. . . . . 16,793,000 Lbs.

Cold-storage holdings of ocean perch fillets on December 1 were 8 percent lower than those on the same date in 1958 (Chart 13).

CHART 13 - COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF OCEAN PERCH FILLETS



Holdings - First Day Of Month
Price - 1-lb carton, large, skins on, at Boston

Prices of ocean perch fillets are at the lowest level in two years. There should be some strengthening during the first quarter (Chart 13).

OCEAN PERCH FILLETS (Cont.)

Imports

January - October

1959.....16,260,000 Lbs.

1958.....19,525,000 Lbs.

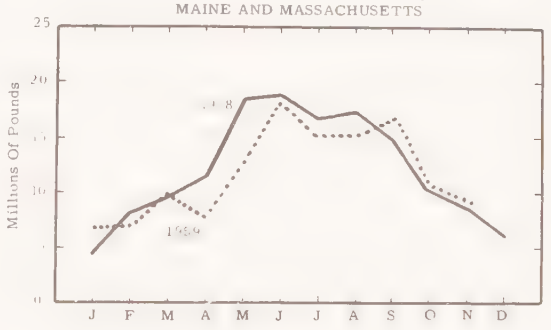
Imports of ocean perch fillets during the first ten months of 1959 were 17 percent lower than those in the corresponding period a year earlier. A decrease in these imports is expected during the first quarter.

Landings, January - November

1959.....130,000,000 Lbs.

1958.....142,500,000 Lbs.

CHART 14 - LANDINGS OF OCEAN PERCH, MAINE AND MASSACHUSETTS



Landings of ocean perch in Maine and Massachusetts through November 1959 were 9 percent lower than those in the first eleven months of 1958 (Chart 14). A gradual increase in landings toward the end of the first quarter is expected.

HALIBUT

Market - Unsettled Supplies - Liberal Demand - Good

Landings of halibut on the Pacific Coast of the United States and Canada during the 1959 season exceeded the 70 million pound mark. Incomplete tabulations indicate a near record year. The 1958 catch was 65.0 million pounds.

Cold-Storage Holdings

December 1

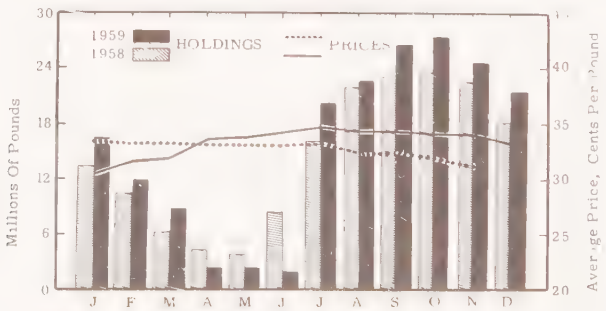
1959.....21,445,000 Lbs.

1958.....18,242,000 Lbs.

Cold-storage holdings of halibut on December 1 were 18 percent higher than those on the same date in 1958 (Chart 15).

Prices, in November, were about 8 percent lower than a year earlier, (Chart 15) and are expected to continue to decrease only slightly before becoming firm in the first quarter.

CHART 15 - COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF HALIBUT



Holdings - First Day Of Month
Price - Western dressed, 20-80 lbs., frozen, at New York

MACKEREL, FRESH AND FROZEN

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Cold-storage holdings of mackerel (except Spanish) on December 1 were about 28 percent higher than those on the corresponding date in 1958.

Landings of mackerel along the North Atlantic Coast will be light during the first quarter.

Prices will remain steady.

MACKEREL, CANNED

Market - Firm Supplies - Light Demand - Good

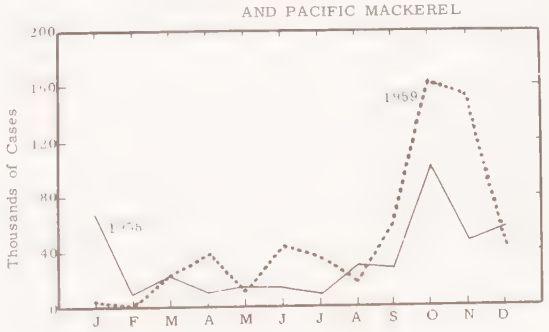
Pack of Pacific and Jack Mackerel

January - December

1959..... 595,000 Std. Cases

1958..... 404,425 Std. Cases

CHART 16 - CALIFORNIA PACK OF CANNED JACK AND PACIFIC MACKEREL



The pack of canned mackerel in 1959, according to preliminary figures, was 47 percent higher than that of 1958 (Chart 16). The mackerel catches in California waters were up sharply in 1959, and the total approaching the close of the year was 65 percent greater than the year earlier.

SABLEFISH

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

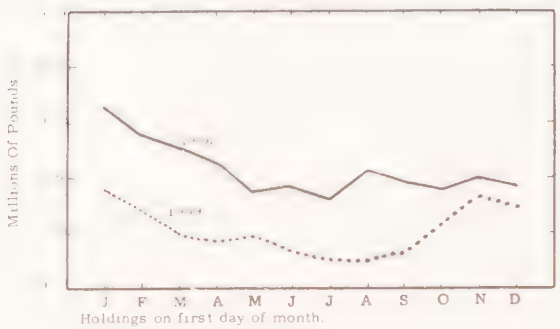
Cold-Storage Holdings

December 1

1959..... 2,165,000 Lbs.

1958..... 2,780,000 Lbs.

CHART 17 - SABLEFISH (BLACK COD) IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of sablefish on December 1 were 22 percent lower than those on the same date in 1958 (Chart 17).

Prices have been higher this season as were landings. No increases in prices during the first quarter are expected.

SALMON, FRESH AND FROZEN

Market - Steady Supplies - Light Demand - Good

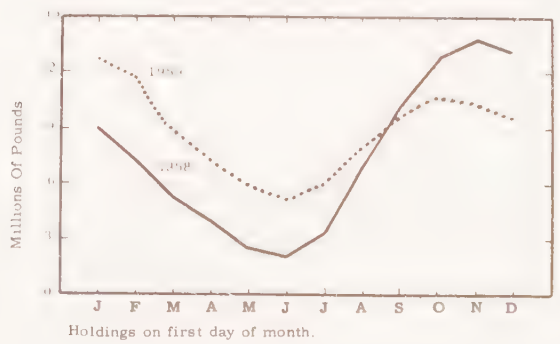
Cold-Storage Holdings

December 1

1959..... 9,192,000 Lbs.

1958.....12,840,000 Lbs.

CHART 18 - SALMON IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of frozen salmon on December 1 were about 28 percent lower than those on December 1, 1958 because of a very poor salmon season (Chart 18).

SALMON, FRESH AND FROZEN (Cont.)

Imports

January - October

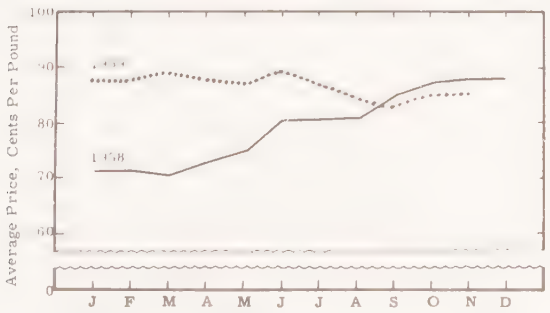
1959. . . . . .13,682,000 Lbs.

1958. . . . . .17,389,000 Lbs.

Imports of fresh and frozen salmon during the first ten months of 1959 were down 21 percent from those in the same period last year. Nearly all fresh and frozen salmon imports were from Canada.

Prices, which had dropped slightly in mid-year, are high again and are expected to remain quite firm during the first quarter (Chart 19). This is especially true in light of the recent action by the United Kingdom in relaxing import controls on fresh and frozen salmon.

CHART 19 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF KING SALMON



Large dressed, frozen, at New York City.

SALMON, MILD-CURED

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

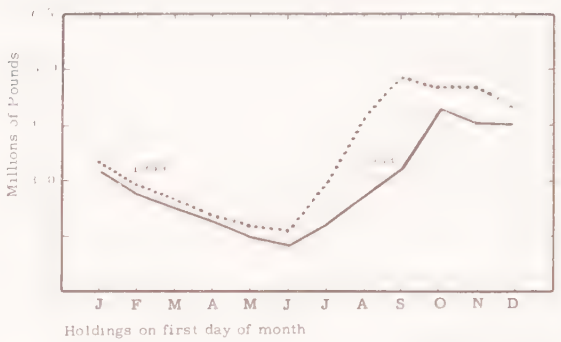
Cold-Storage Holdings

December 1

1959..... 4,862,000 Lbs.

1958..... 3,932,000 Lbs.

CHART 20 - MILD-CURED SALMON IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month

Cold-storage holdings of mild-cured salmon on December 1 were 24 percent higher than those a year earlier (Chart 20).

Production - Total Pacific Coast production of mild-cured salmon in 1959 amounted to 8,234 tierces compared with 8,692 tierces in 1958. The 1959 pack consisted of 8,149 tierces of kings and 85 tierces of silvers.

Prices - Because of increased demand as a result of excellent quality, prices are expected to remain very firm during the first quarter.

SALMON, CANNED

Market - Firm Supplies - Light Demand - Active

Season Pack (Preliminary)

(Standard Cases)

	Alaska	Pacific Coast States	Total
1959	1,770,800	692,400	2,463,200
1958	2,971,297	760,663	3,731,960

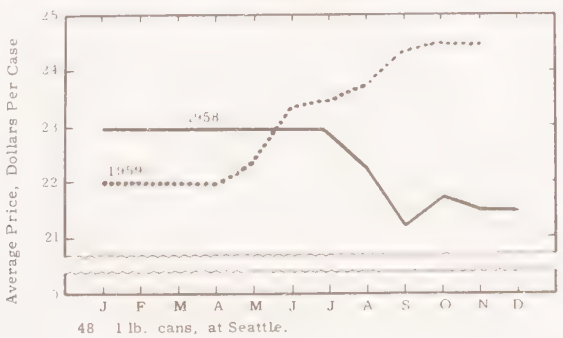
Pack - According to preliminary figures, the total 1959 canned salmon pack was 34 percent lower than that of 1958. The largest decline was in the Alaska pack which was 40 percent below that of the year previous. The pack in the Pacific Coast States was lower by 9 percent.

Imports of canned salmon during the first ten months of 1959 were about 1 percent lower than those through October, 1958. An 85 percent decline in imports from Canada was almost offset by much higher receipts from Japan.

Exports of canned salmon through October, 1959 had already exceeded those for the full year 1958. The United Kingdom and the Philippines are the principal importers of canned salmon from the United States. In the first ten months of 1959, about 9.4 million pounds of canned salmon were exported to these countries.

Wholesale prices of canned pink salmon reached an all time high during the fourth quarter of 1959 (Chart 21). Because of the very short supplies of all species of canned salmon, prices will remain firm and high during the first quarter, 1960.

CHART 21 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF CANNED PINK SALMON



48 1 lb. cans, at Seattle.

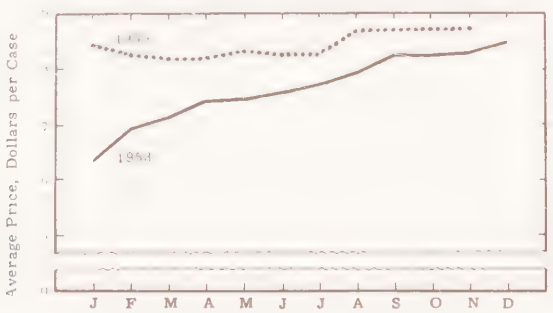
SARDINES, CANNED (MAINE)

Market - Steady Supplies - Light-to-Moderate Demand - Moderate

Pack - The Maine sardine packing season officially closed at midnight on December 1, with a total canned pack of about 1,750,000 cases (100 - 3-3/4 oz. cans). This was far short of the preseason goal of matching the 1958 pack of almost 2,100,000 cases. The short pack resulted from spotty and unsatisfactory fish supply. Because of failure of the fall run to materialize, many processing plants closed in October.

Prices - The market for Maine sardines is steady with prices firm and expected to continue so for an indefinite period (Chart 22). A complete sellout by all canners before the 1960 season gets underway is anticipated.

CHART 22 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF MAINE SARDINES



100-3¼ ounce cans, keyless, oil pack, at New York

SARDINES, CANNED (CALIFORNIA)

Market - Steady Supplies - Light Demand - Improving

Landings of California sardines for the 1959 season were about 66 percent lower than those in 1958 when the catch was 102,000 tons.

Prices, because of short supply, will remain firm with possibility of slight increase.

Exports of sardines, canned not-in-oil, through October were almost three times as much as those exported in the corresponding period in 1958. The Philippines is the largest single importer of this commodity from the United States.

SARDINES, CANNED

Imports of Sardines Not-in-Oil

January - October

1959.....547,000 Lbs.

1958.....9,862,000 Lbs.

Imports of sardines, canned not-in-oil, during the January - October period continued extremely light compared with last year. However, there should be marked improvement in these imports in view of the short supply of Pacific Coast sardines.

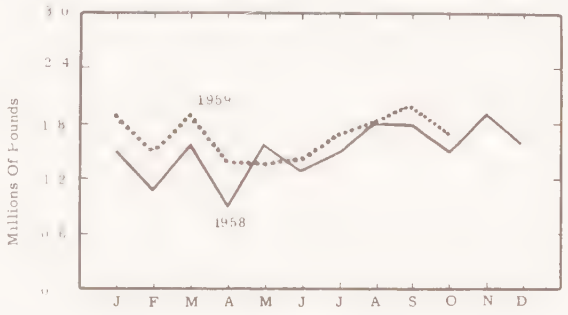
Imports of Sardines In Oil

January - October

1959.....16,727,000 Lbs.

1958.....14,496,000 Lbs.

CHART 23 - IMPORTS OF SARDINES CANNED IN-OIL



Imports of sardines, canned in oil, during the first ten months of 1959 were about 15 percent higher than those in the corresponding period in 1958 (Chart 23). Norway and Portugal are the principal suppliers.

SWORDFISH

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

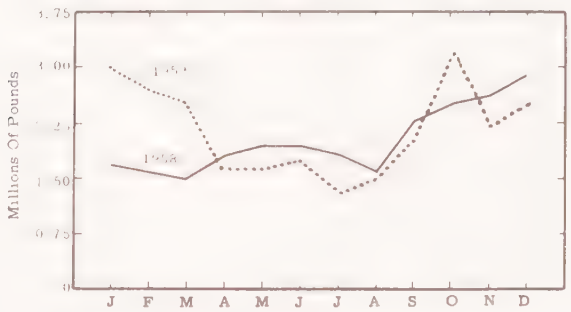
Cold-Storage Holdings

December 1

1959.....2,484,000 Lbs.

1958.....2,925,000 Lbs.

CHART 24 - SWORDFISH IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of swordfish on December 1 were 15 percent lower than those on December 1, 1958 (Chart 24).

Imports of swordfish through October 1959 totaled 18.8 million pounds compared with 16.8 million pounds in the same period in 1958. Swordfish fillets and steaks accounted for 13.3 million pounds of the 1959 import total.

Prices should continue steady during the first quarter.

TUNA

Market - Firm Supplies - Liberal Demand - Good

Cannery Receipts of Fresh and Frozen Tuna

California

January - December

(In Tons)

	Imports	Domestic	Total
1959	77,000	139,000	216,000
1958	72,000	157,000	229,000

Tuna cannery receipts in California during 1959 were about 6 percent below the record receipts in 1958. Imports accounted for 31 percent of this total. Domestic landings were about 12 percent lower than they were in 1958.

Imports, Frozen Tuna

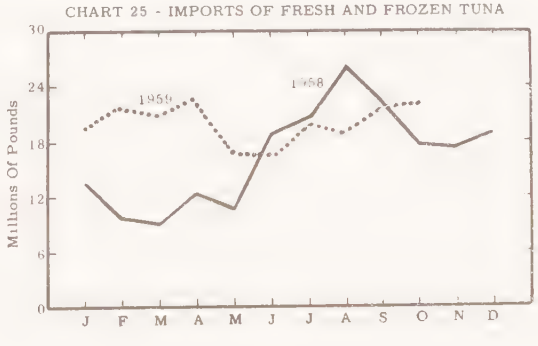
(All U.S. Ports)

January - October

1959.....200,488,000 Lbs.

1958.....161,553,000 Lbs.

CHART 25 - IMPORTS OF FRESH AND FROZEN TUNA



Imports of frozen tuna at all United States' ports continue high, and in the first ten months of 1959 they were 24 percent greater than those in the corresponding period in 1958 (Chart 25). Albacore receipts were 18 percent lower.

TUNA, CANNED

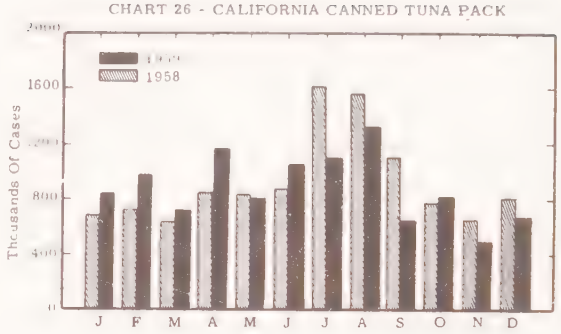
California Pack of Canned Tuna

January - December

1959..... 10,675,000 Std. Cases

1958..... 11,200,000 Std. Cases

CHART 26 - CALIFORNIA CANNED TUNA PACK



Pack - The California pack of canned tuna was only about 5 percent smaller than the record 1958 pack (Chart 26). The full effects of earlier vessel tie ups were felt during the latter part of 1959.

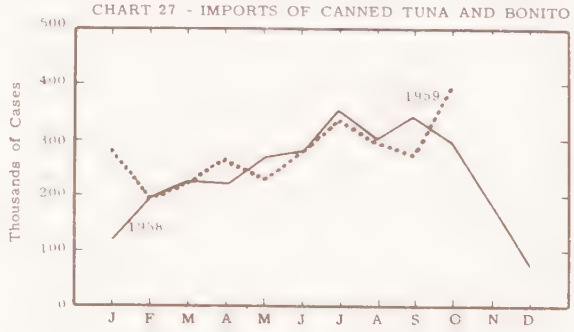
Imports of Canned Tuna and Bonito

January - October

1959..... 2,781,000 Std. Cases

1958..... 2,685,000 Std. Cases

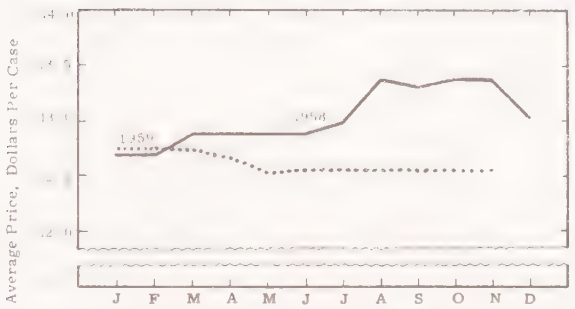
CHART 27 - IMPORTS OF CANNED TUNA AND BONITO



Imports of canned tuna and bonito during the first ten months of 1959 were almost 4 percent higher than those in the corresponding period in 1958 (Chart 27). Canned albacore imports continued to be lower than those a year earlier. Tuna and bonito in brine accounted for 85 percent of the total imports.

Since May, 1959 the wholesale price for canned light meat tuna has held at a steady level which is the lowest since September 1957 (Chart 28). Prices are expected to remain firm.

CHART 28 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF CANNED LIGHT MEAT TUNA



Solid pack, 48 7 ounce cans, at Los Angeles.
Average of weekly quotations for Advertised Brands and Other Packers' Labels.

Albacore Tuna
Average size, 12-25 lbs.

WHITING

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

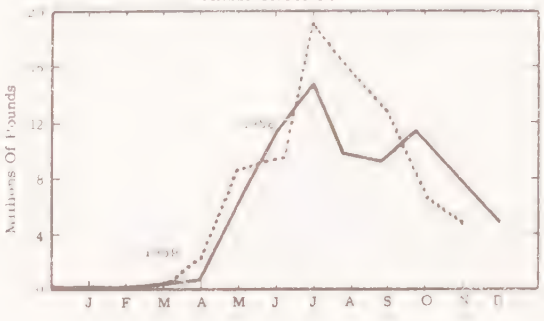
Landings, January - November

(Massachusetts)

1959.....79,113,000 Lbs.

1958.....77,937,000 Lbs.

CHART 29 - LANDINGS OF WHITING
MASSACHUSETTS



Landings of whiting in Massachusetts during eleven months of 1959 were only about 2 percent greater than those through November, 1958 (Chart 29). First quarter landings will be seasonally light.

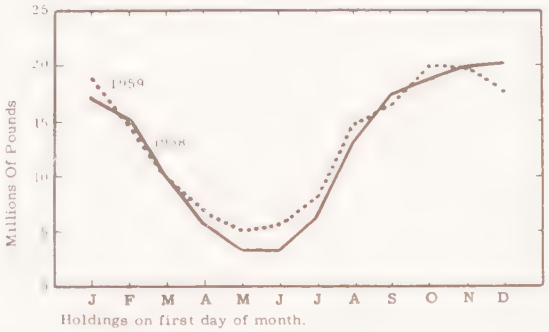
Cold-Storage Holdings

December 1

1959.....17,608,000 Lbs.

1958.....20,213,000 Lbs.

CHART 30 - WHITING IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of whiting on December 1, 1959 were 13 percent lower than those on the same date a year earlier (Chart 30). There seems to be more of the smaller size whiting on the market than last year. The larger fish are preferred.

Prices should remain steady during the first quarter.

CLAMS, FRESH

Market - Steady Supplies - Light Demand - Good

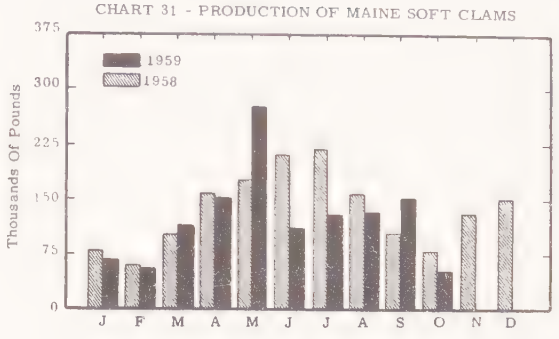
Production, January - October

Maine Soft Clams

1959..... 1,254,000 Lbs.

1958..... 1,351,000 Lbs.

CHART 31 - PRODUCTION OF MAINE SOFT CLAMS



Production of soft clams in Maine through October 1959 was about 7 percent below that during the first ten months a year earlier (Chart 31).

Prices will continue firm.

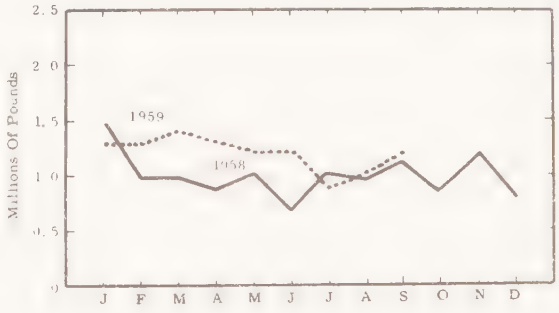
Production, January - October

New Jersey Surf Clams

1959..... 11,918,000 Lbs.

1958..... 10,258,000 Lbs.

CHART 32 - PRODUCTION SURF CLAMS, NEW JERSEY



In the first ten months of 1959, the production of surf clams increased 16 percent compared with that in the similar period a year earlier (Chart 32).

Prices should be steady.

CRABS AND CRAB MEAT, FRESH AND FROZEN

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Production of hard crabs along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts is expected to be good during the first quarter. On the Pacific Coast, the Dungeness crab season began in the last part of the fourth quarter with bright prospects for a good season.

Cold-Storage Holdings

December 1

1959.....1,515,000 Lbs.

1958.....1,690,000 Lbs.

Cold-storage holdings of crabs and crab meat on December 1 were 10 percent below those a year earlier.

Prices will continue firm during the first quarter.

CRABS AND CRAB MEAT, CANNED

Pack of canned crab meat in the Gulf States during 1959 amounted to 5,097 standard cases (48 - 6-1/2 oz. cans), compared with 7,246 standard cases in 1958.

CRABS AND CRAB MEAT, CANNED (Cont.)

Imports

January - October

1959..... 6,889,000 Lbs.

1958..... 5,157,000 Lbs.

Imports of canned crab meat during the first ten months of 1959 were almost 34 percent higher than those during the corresponding period in 1958, and were already 18 percent more than the total 1958 canned crab meat imports.

Prices are expected to remain high.

LOBSTERS, NORTHERN

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

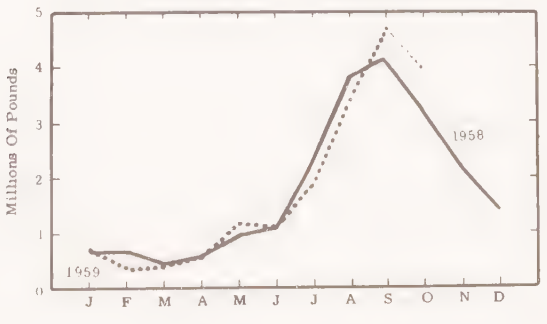
Maine Landings

January - October

1959..... 18,263,000 Lbs.

1958..... 17,713,000 Lbs.

CHART 33 - LANDINGS OF LOBSTERS, MAINE



Landings of lobsters in Maine through October, 1959 were about 3 percent higher than those in the first nine months of 1958 (Chart 33). Landings are seasonally very light in the first quarter.

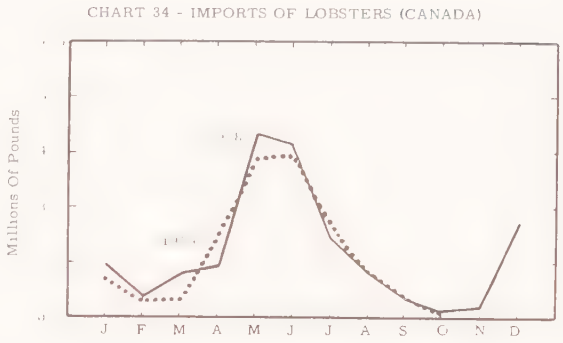
LOBSTERS, NORTHERN (Cont.)

Imports from Canada

January - October

1959..... 17,437,000 Lbs.

1958..... 18,573,000 Lbs.



Imports of lobsters from Canada through October, 1959 were about 6 percent lower than those during the first ten months of 1958 (Chart 34). Probably increased receipts during the first quarter.

Prices will remain high.

LOBSTERS, SPINY

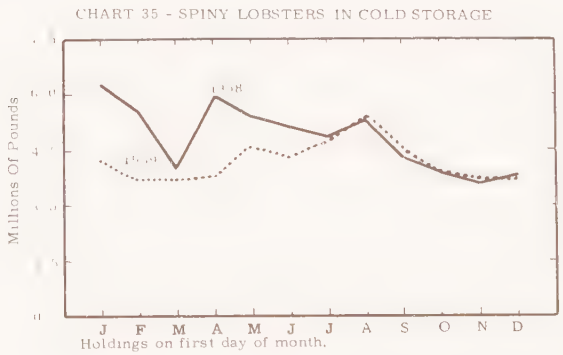
Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Cold-Storage Holdings

December 1

1959..... 3,691,000 Lbs.

1958..... 3,824,000 Lbs.



Cold-storage holdings of spiny lobsters on December 1, 1959 were 3 percent lower than those on the same date a year earlier (Chart 35).

LOBSTERS, SPINY (Cont.)

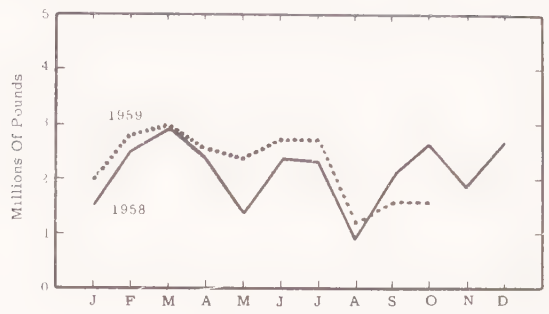
Imports

January - October

1959.....22,781,000 Lbs.

1958.....21,409,000 Lbs.

CHART 36 - IMPORTS OF SPINY LOBSTERS



Imports of spiny lobsters through the first ten months of 1959 were about 6 percent higher than those through October, 1958 (Chart 36). Australia and South Africa are the principal suppliers of the commodity to the United States.

OYSTERS, FRESH-SHUCKED

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Active

Production of oysters on the East and Gulf coasts is expected to be at its peak. Pacific Coast oysters will also be in good supply.

Prices are expected to continue high.

OYSTERS, CANNED

Market - Firm Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Production of canned oysters will begin in January with prices remaining steady. Old pack will be just about exhausted as new supplies become available.

SCALLOPS, SEA

Market - Steady Supplies - Liberal Demand - Good

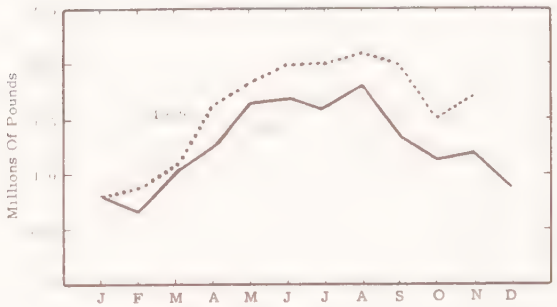
New Bedford Landings

January - November

1959..... 17,500,000 Lbs.

1958..... 15,000,000 Lbs.

CHART 37 - LANDINGS OF SCALLOPS, NEW BEDFORD



Shucked weight (lbs. of meat).

Landings of scallops during the first eleven months of 1959 were well on the way to establishing a new record, and were about 17 percent higher than those in the corresponding period in 1958. First quarter landings will be at seasonal low (Chart 37).

Cold-Storage Holdings

December 1

1959..... 3,345,000 Lbs.

1958..... 2,250,000 Lbs.

CHART 38 - COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SCALLOPS

Holdings - First Day Of Month.
Price - Domestic 5-lb carton, at Boston

Cold-storage holdings on December 1, 1959 were about 4 percent higher than those a year earlier (Chart 38).

Prices continue to drop, and during the first quarter 1960 are expected to be considerably lower than those in the first quarter of 1959 (Chart 38).

SHRIMP, FRESH AND FROZEN

Market - Steady Supplies - Liberal Demand - Good

Landings

Gulf Coast States

January - November

Headless

1959..... 107,881,000 Lbs.

1958..... 98,692,000 Lbs.

Landings of shrimp in the Gulf coastal areas of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas during eleven months of 1959 were 9 percent higher than those in the similar 1958 period. Some seasonal drop is expected in first quarter production.

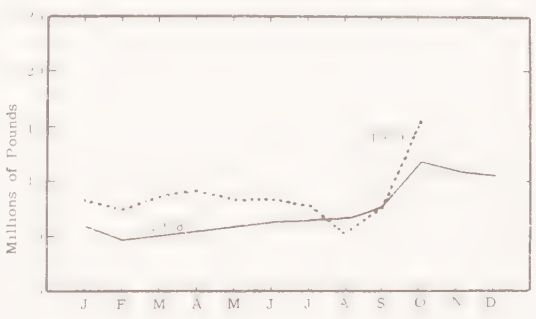
Imports

January - October

1959..... 85,675,000 Lbs.

1958..... 64,330,000 Lbs.

CHART 39 - IMPORTS OF SHRIMP



Imports of frozen shrimp through October were 33 percent higher than they were during the corresponding period in 1958 (Chart 39). Continued heavy imports are anticipated in the first quarter.

Cold-Storage Holdings

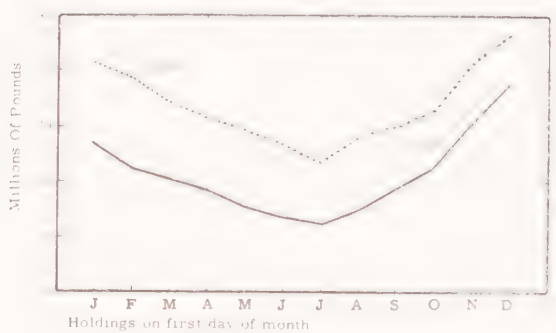
December 1

(Raw Headless)

1959..... 37,318,000 Lbs.

1958..... 30,211,000 Lbs.

CHART 40 - RAW HEADLESS SHRIMP IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-Storage Holdings

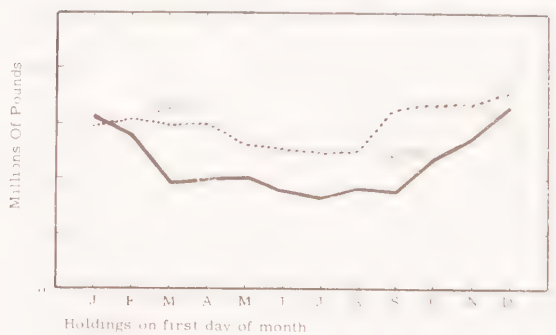
December 1

(All Others)

1959..... 10,569,000 Lbs.

1958..... 10,017,000 Lbs.

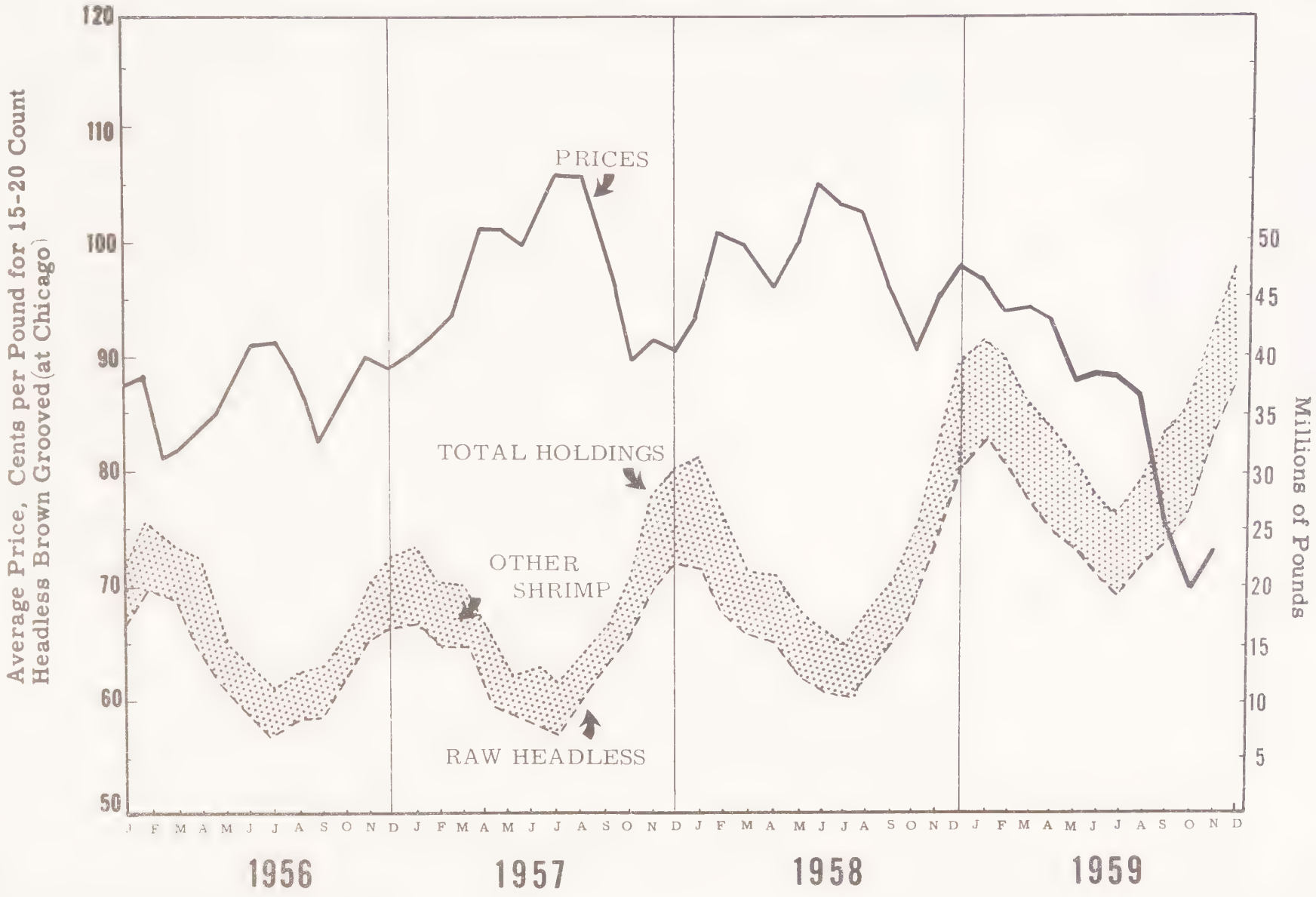
CHART 41 - ALL OTHER (PROCESSED) SHRIMP IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of raw headless shrimp on December 1 were about 24 percent higher than those on the corresponding date in 1958. Holdings of all other frozen shrimp, including breaded, were up almost 6 percent (Charts 40 and 41). Inventories will tend to level off with low production period during the first quarter.

Prices are expected to become somewhat firmer in the first quarter, but still much below last year.

CHART 42 - SHRIMP IN COLD STORAGE AND WHOLESALE PRICES



SHRIMP, CANNED

Market - Steady Supplies - Light-to-Moderate Demand - Good

Pack

Gulf States

Season Pack

August - December, 1959.....320,000 Std. Cases

August - December, 1958.....440,000 Std. Cases

Pack of canned shrimp in the Gulf States for the first five months of the season, August - December, 1959, was about 27 percent lower than that in the corresponding period last year. Production will be at a low ebb during the first quarter, and inventories will be light.

Prices should become firmer.

Demand for ocean shrimp from the Pacific Northwest is slow with resulting high inventories. Much competition from lower priced Gulf shrimp.

Cold-Storage Holdings

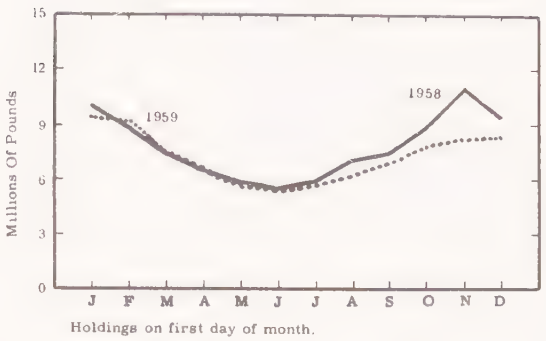
December 1

(United States)

1959..... 8,281,000 Lbs.

1958..... 9,336,000 Lbs.

CHART 43 - FRESH-WATER FISH IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-Storage Holdings

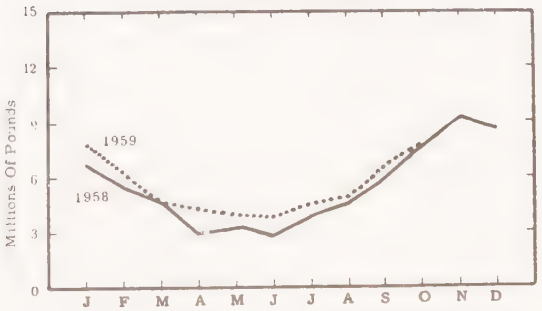
November 1

(Canada)

1959..... 7,623,000 Lbs.

1958..... 8,757,000 Lbs.

CHART 44 - CANADIAN FRESH-WATER FISH IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

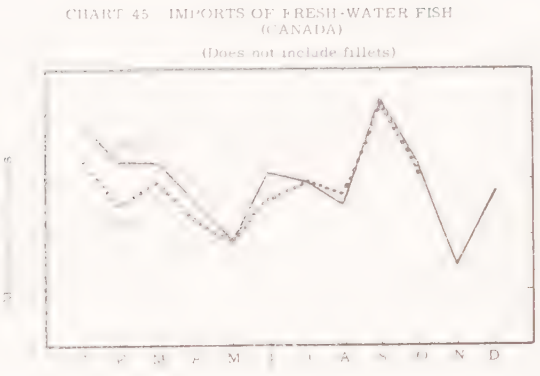
Cold-storage holdings of fresh-water fish in the United States on December 1 were about 11 percent lower than those on the same date in 1958 (Chart 43). Canadian holdings on November 1 were also lower than those a year earlier by about 13 percent (Chart 44).

Fish Imports

(Canada)

January - October

1959.....29,100,000 Lbs.



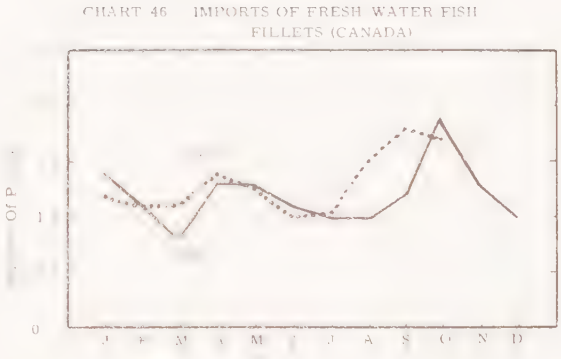
1958.....31,600,000 Lbs.

Fillet Imports

(Canada)

January - October

1959.....13,200,000 Lbs.



1958.....12,000,000 Lbs.

Imports of fresh-water fish, (other than fillets), from Canada through October, 1959 were 8 percent lower than those in the first ten months of 1958, but receipts of fresh-water fillets were 10 percent higher (Charts 45 and 46).

Prices should remain steady.

FISH OIL

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal Demand - Moderate

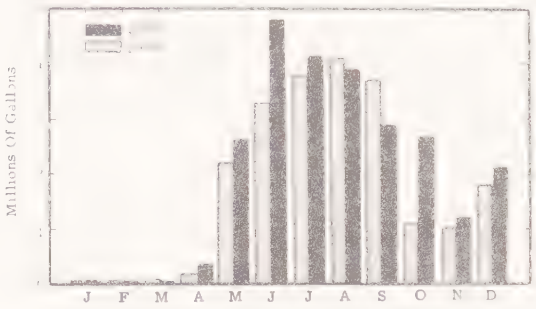
Production

January - December

1959.....24,600,000 Gals.

1958.....21,984,000 Gals.

CHART 47 - FISH OIL PRODUCTION



Production of fish oil during 1959 was about 21 percent higher than that in the year earlier (Chart 47). First quarter production will be very limited.

Exports, January - November

1959.....124,895,000 Lbs.

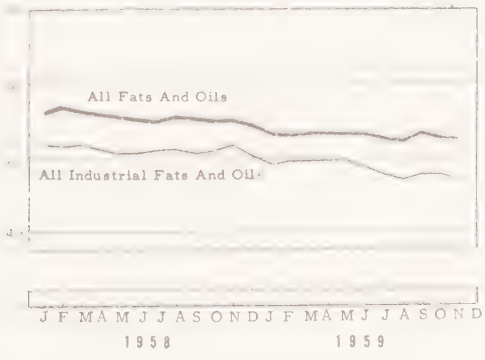
1958.....91,168,000 Lbs.

Exports of inedible fish oils in the first 11 months of 1959 were 37 percent greater than those in the corresponding period in 1958, during which such exports were at the lowest level since 1953. Northern Europe received most of the U.S. exports of fish oils. However, there were continued sharp declines in exports to Canada.

Wholesale price index for all fats and oils for November 1959 was 65.2, a decline of 7 percent from November 1958. The index for all industrial fats and oils in November was 53.8, representing a 15 percent drop from that on the same month a year earlier (Chart 48).

CHART 48 - WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES

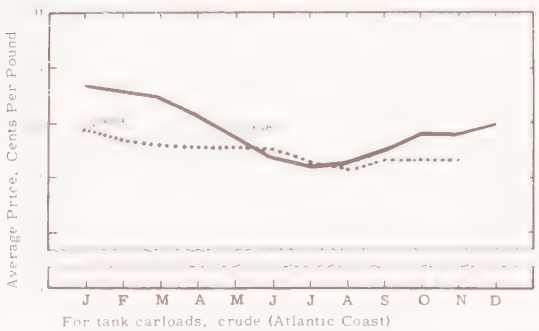
1947-49 = 100



FISH OIL (Cont.)

Wholesale price of menhaden oil in November was 7.25 cents per pound, about 3 percent lower than that in November 1958 (Chart 49). Prices are not expected to change significantly.

CHART 49 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF MENHADEN OIL



For tank carloads, crude (Atlantic Coast)

FISH MEAL

Market - Unsettled Supplies - Liberal Demand - Moderate

Production

January - December

1959.....302,000 Tons

1958.....248,000 Tons

The estimated 1959 production of fish meal was 19 percent higher than that in 1958. In 1959, a record was established for the production of fish meal.

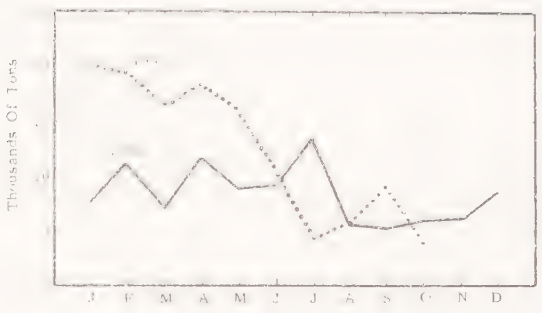
FISH MEAL (Cont.)

Imports

January - November

1959..... 127,000 Tons

CHART 50 - IMPORTS OF FISH MEAL



1958..... 92,000 Tons

Imports of fish meal during eleven months of 1959 were 38 percent higher than they were through November 1958 (Chart 50). Peru is the largest supplier of this product to the United States.

CHART 51 - WHOLESALE FEEDSTUFF PRICE INDEX
1947-49 = 100

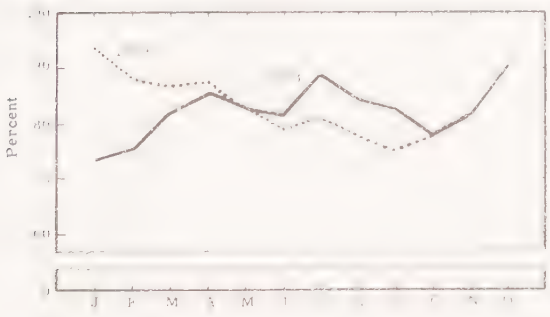
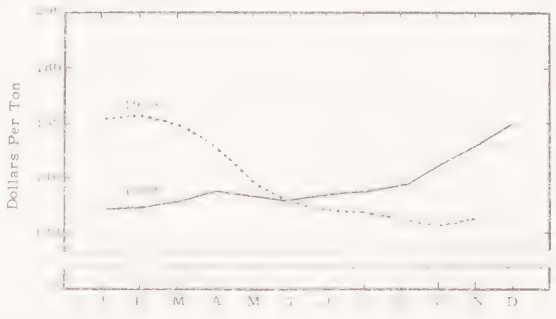


CHART 52 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF MENHADEN MEAL



For 60% protein, burlap bag, at Eastern ports.

Wholesale feedstuff price index for November 1959 was 81.2 compared with 81.7 in November 1958 (Chart 51).

Wholesale price for menhaden meal in November 1959 was at the very low level of $124.37 per ton (Chart 52). Because of record menhaden catch, prices will probably remain low during the first quarter.

The statements appearing in this report are interpretations of past experiences influenced by current indications of what probably will occur. Wide use is made of interviews and correspondence with representative members of the commercial fishing industry, in order to obtain the opinions of the trade as to the business conditions generally expected to prevail during the period of the year covered by the report.

Sources of Chart Data

Chart 2, U. S. Department of Labor
Charts 10, 23, 25, 27, 34, 36, 39, 45, 46, 50, U. S. Department of Commerce
Charts 48, 51, U. S. Department of Agriculture
Charts 16, 26, California Department of Fish and Game, Marine Fisheries Branch
Chart 44, Canadian Bureau of Statistics

Market Terms Used in This Report

The terms under the headings Market, Supplies, and Demand are intended to indicate the degree of market activity produced by the particular supply and demand situation.

Market refers to movement of supplies and the price structure.

Supplies refer to available stocks, i.e. receipts, imports, cold-storage holdings, and processed fish and shellfish. The terms used are relative and do not signify any particular quantity.

Demand measures the readiness of the trade to absorb supplies.

Market	Supplies	Demand
Excited	Very heavy	Exceeds supply
Stronger	Heavy	Brisk
Strong	Liberal	Active
Active	Moderate-to-Liberal	Good
Firm	Moderate	Improving
Steady	Light-to-Moderate	Moderate
Unsettled	Light	Light
Dull		Slow
Weak		Practically no demand
Demoralized		No demand

Prices refer to those at wholesale or comparable level.

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